

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 06361 130758Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /112 W

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R 130744Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06361

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, JA, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-JAPANESE PFT -- MOMENTUM SLACKENS

REF: A. PEKING 0899 (NOTAL); B. PEKING 0864;

C. TOKYO 04825

1. SUMMARY: INTRA-LDP DISCUSSIONS HAVE FAILED TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE ON PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT). IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY FONMIN WILL TRAVEL TO PEKING FOR PFT TALKS IN NEAR FUTURE. PM IN TURN HAS NOT PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED IN CURRENT DEBATE WITHIN LDP, LEADING TREATY SUPPORTERS TO QUESTION AGAIN HIS RESOLVE. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD JOINT MEETING OF LDP'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL (FARC) AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION CONCLUDED APRIL 11 WITH NO INDICATION OF CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06361 130758Z

DECISION TO REOPEN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE ON PFT. FOURTH JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14. IF AND WHEN FARC APPROVES, DEBATE THEN MOVES TO LDP POLICY BOARD IN HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS, AND FROM THERE TO LDP'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHERE APPROVAL WOULD FACE ADDITIONAL HURDLES.

3. FACTION LEADER NAKASONE, CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DECLARED PUBLICLY APRIL 6 THAT BEFORE CONCLUDING PFT, JAPAN AND CHINA SHOULD CLARIFY THEIR POSITIONS ON FOUR MATTERS:

(1) RELATIONSHIP OF PFT TO JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY; (2) CHINA-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE TREATY; (3) TERRITORIAL ISSUE OF SENKAKU ISLANDS; AND (4) CHINESE-PROPOSED ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE IN PFT. MARCH 24 RESOLUTION (NOT BINDING) THAT GOJ SHOULD START BUILDING HELIPORT AND OTHER FACILITIES ON DISPUTED SENKAKUS MAY BE ADDITIONAL SIGN OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ATTITUDE. (APRIL 12 PRC FISHING BOAT INCURSION INTO SENKAKU WATERS, DISCUSSED SEPTTEL, MAY FURTHER COMPLICATE THIS ASPECT OF SITUATION.)

4. DESPITE UNENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE WITHIN PARTY, FONMIN SONODA HAS CONTINUED TO ACCENT THE POSITIVE. SPEAKING TO OPPOSITION SDF LEADER HIDEO DEN APRIL 10 ON EVE OF LATTER'S TRIP TO PEKING, SONODA REAFFIRMED HIS DESIRE TO TRAVEL TO CHINA THIS MONTH. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, PM TOLD DEN THAT SONODA TRIP TO PEKING WAS ONLY ONE OPTION GOJ WAS CONSIDERING FOR REOPENING PFT NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHER, MOFA CHINA DIVISION SOURCES, WHO EARLIER HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PLAN FOR SONODA CHINA VISIT APRIL 10-15, TOLD US THAT CURRENTLY NO SUCH PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE.

5. COMMENT: KEY TO MOVEMENT ON PFT FROM JAPANESE SIDE, NOW AS ALWAYS, IS DEGREE OF COMMITMENT BY PM FUKUDA, WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 06361 130758Z

SEEMS LUKEWARM AT BEST. LEGALLY, PM DID NOT HAVE TO SEEK PARTY CONSENSUS FOR DECISION TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, HE CHOSE NOT TO DEFEND REOPENING OF TALKS PERSONALLY, INSTEAD SENDING FONMIN SONODA TO ARGUE BEFORE LDP COMMITTEES. MANY TREATY OPPONENTS IN THESE COMMITTEES ARE FUKUDA-FACTION MEMBERS WHO PRESUMABLY COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY SWAYED BY PM THAN BY SONODA, WHOM MANY SUSPECT AS BEING OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY OF SONODA TRIP REMAINS ON POLITICAL AGENDA, FORWARD MOTION ON PFT APPEARS UNLIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE. MANSFIELD

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